

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04561 251030Z

42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 DHA-02 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 SY-05

IO-13 /091 W

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R 251010Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6310

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4561

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, KU

SUBJECT: GOK ARREST OF PROMINET LABOR LEADERS

REF KUWAIT 4265

1. KUWAIT PRESS (AL-'ANBA SEPTEMBER 24) CARRIED SHORT ARTICLE IDENTIFYING THREE PERSONS ARRESTED BY MINISTRY OF INTERIOR FOR DISTRIBUTING PAMPHLETS, 'ALI ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-KANDARI, JALAL MUHAMMAD AL-SAHLI, AND RAJA SULTAN AL-'UTAYBI. THE THREE ARE ACCUSED OF "PROVOCATION OF DISCONTENT AND EMBARACING DESTRUCTIVE PRINCIPLES." THE CASE IS CURRENTLY BEING INVESTIGATED BY DIRECTOR OF PROSECUTION MUHAMMAD ABU TAHUN. THE ARTICLE CHARACTERIZES THIS CASE AS TAKING ON OVERTONES OF A "STATE SECURITY" CASE, AND CITES IT AS BEING THIRD EXAMPLE OF SUCH A CASE IN KUWAIT. FIRST EXAMPLE BEING

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 04561 251030Z

THE INCIDENT OF PERSONS ACCUSED OF PLANTING EXPLOSIVES IN

LATTER PART OF 1969, THE SECOND BEING THE ARAB COMMUNIST ACTION ORGANIZATION CASE IN WHICH THREE OF FIVE PERSONS WERE TRIED AND CONVICTED BEFORE A STATE SECURITY COURT (1975).

2. COMMENT: AL-KANDARI IS A PROMINENT LABOR OFFICIAL, HOLDING THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE KUWAIT WORKERS CONFEDERATION. HE IS ALSO AN OFFICER IN THE EMPLOYEES UNION OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR. PRESUMABLY THE OTHER TWO IDENTIFIED IN THE ARTICLE ARE ALSO LABOR UNION MEMBERS. AL-KANDARI IS ALSO AN EDITOR OF THE LABOR CONFEDERATION MONTHLY PUBLICATION, AL-'UMAL. THE ARREST OF AL-KANDARI MAY SIGNAL A GOK CRACKDOWN ON LABOR UNIONS AND OTHER "POPULAR KUWAITI ORGANIZATIONS". THE SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT IN THE ARTICLE IS ITS CHARACTERIZATION OF AN INCIDENT OF "PAMPHLETEERING" AS BEING AS SERIOUS AS THE TWO CITED CASES WHICH WERE CONSIDERED THREATS AGAINST THE SECURITY OF THE STATE.
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLICATIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KUWAIT04561
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760363-0472
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760920/aaaaarct.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 KUWAIT 4265
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOK ARREST OF PROMINET LABOR LEADERS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, ELAB, KU, (AL-KANDARI, ALI ABD AL-RAHMAN), (AL-SAHLI, JALAL MUHAMMAD), (AL-'UTAYBI, RAJ SULTAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006